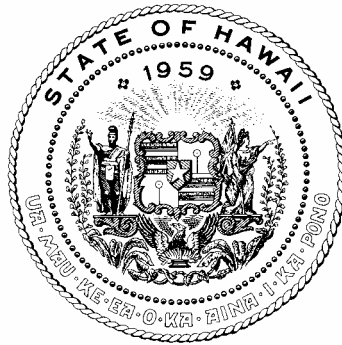


ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2004

RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND



Prepared by

THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In response to Section 183D-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Honolulu, Hawaii
November 2003

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2004
WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003**

PURPOSE

Act 290, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, amended Section 183D-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) by adding a requirement for an annual report to be prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) on the status of the Wildlife Revolving Fund (WRF) and transmitted to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to each regular session. The report is to include:

1. The source and application of monies deposited into the fund, including a description of the criteria and process used to determine funding priorities;
2. A description of programs and activities supported by the fund;
3. A summary of program highlights and accomplishments; and
4. A description of future program plans, including specific goals and objectives.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Section 183D-10.5 (b), HRS, provides that proceeds from fees for hunting licenses; game bird farmer and Commercial Hunting Preserve licenses and fees; hunting guide licenses; hunter education training programs and use of public target ranges; fines collected for hunting or wildlife law violations; bail forfeitures; sale of articles required before hunting; and works of art may be deposited into WRF. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2002-2003, the major source of revenue were hunting license sales, wildlife stamp sales, and game tags and application fees. Sources of revenues are detailed below:

FY2003 REVENUE

Hunting License Sales	\$121,441
Game Tags and Application Fees	101,920
Wildlife Conservation Stamps and Artwork	95,785
Commercial Shooting Preserve Shooting Permits	3,990
Game Bird Farmer and Commercial Hunting Preserve License and Fees	2,777
Hunter Education Activities	2,550
Hunting Guide License Fees	650
Circuit Court Fines	1,275
District Court Fines	700
Sale of Maps and Publications	703
Interest	7,028
Reimbursements	<u>438</u>
TOTAL FOR FY 2003	\$339,257

Revenue for FY totaled \$339,257, which was a \$122,459 (56%) increase over the previous year. Higher wildlife stamp fees and the sale of game tags and application fees accounted for the increase in revenue. Revenue did not meet the Department's authorized budget ceiling for the WRF of \$399,790. However, the Department managed its expenditures so as not to exceed the amount of cash available in the Fund. Payment of prior years outstanding encumbrances totaled \$37,342 and new expenditures totaled \$193,685. The cash balance at the end of the Fiscal Year amounted to \$212,503 with outstanding encumbrances of \$49,231. Unencumbered cash available for carryover totaled \$163,272.

Status of WRF During FY 03 (S-03-343-C & S-03-344-C)

Beginning Cash Balance of Fund on July 1, 2002:	\$104,273
Less: Liquidation of outstanding encumbrances from prior years:	\$ 37,342
Add: Revenues during FY 03:	\$339,257
Less: Expenditures during FY 03:	\$193,685
Cash Balance as of June 30, 2003:	\$212,503

Less: Unpaid encumbrances for FY03 as of June 30, 2003:	\$ 49,231
Unencumbered Cash for carryover as of June 30, 2003:	\$163,272

FUNDING PRIORITIES

WRF has become a more critical portion of the overall budget to meet obligations of state match and operating and salary expenses for critical wildlife projects. Because the major source of revenue in WRF is derived from sales of hunting licenses, wildlife stamps used to validate hunting licenses, and game tags, priority was given to expenditures which benefited this user group. In budgeting for WRF, a policy of allotting approximately 85% of the budget for the hunting program has been in place and followed. Approximately 15% of the budget is allocated for nongame and wildlife sanctuary management. Section 183D-10.5(e), HRS, also requires that the State first use WRF monies to "maximize the State's participation to secure federal funds under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act." Consequently, a priority was given to those expenditures that provided the state match for Pittman-Robertson (PR) projects. Additionally, a major source of revenue during FY03 was game tag and application fees for specific hunts. The Department made a commitment to the hunting public to use those fees to support operations for the program where the fees were assessed. Revenue from tag and application fees was allocated to the Branch Offices of the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) where the hunts occurred.

The allocation of operating funds to DOFAW's Branch Offices was done on a lump sum basis to be used on eligible projects in the most efficient manner as possible. Salary funds were divided among the Branches to provide each Branch a full time or part time general laborer position and to provide a clerk typist to manage the hunting license database. The operating funds were allotted to the Branches based on the respective branch wildlife program size and complexity, and amount of revenue generated from license, stamp, tag, and application fees. This allotment process put the decision on

where and how to use WRF monies at the branch-operational level where they could be used on the most pressing local needs.

PROCESS USED

1. The Department's Fiscal Office and DOFAW coordinated to determine the amount of the Fund available for allocation to DOFAW's Branch Offices.
2. At the beginning of the Fiscal Year, a portion of the WRF budget was allocated to each DOFAW Branch Office, Honolulu Staff Office for Statewide projects and the Hunter Education Branch of the Department's Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement. Allocations are based on the size and complexity of the wildlife program and amount of revenue generated for license sales, tag and application fees. A portion of the Funds are allocated for temporary personnel to maintain critical wildlife program functions such as hunting license sales data base management and general laborers to assist with wildlife projects.
3. Each Branch Office was instructed to use their WRF budget to benefit the resources and resource users within the criteria of compliance with the purpose of the WRF, the necessity to provide state-match requirements for PR projects if needed, and to fall within the percentage distribution for the game and non-game programs.
4. An emphasis was placed on using WRF for expenditures that provided needed infrastructure and improvements to public hunting areas, maintained or provided new public hunting opportunities, or addressed high priority conservation initiatives.
5. Purchase orders were identified and coded as "WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND: S-02-343" to facilitate tracking and accountability.
6. Expenditures complied with approved categories of expenditures for WRF as established by The Board of Land and Natural Resources on August 13, 1993.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

KAUAI SEGMENT

Emergency Hire General Laborer I

DOFAW's Kauai Wildlife Section employed a one-half time emergency hire general laborer with WRF monies to assist on various maintenance projects including game water units, feeding sites and predator control during the year. The position was also assigned to man the Kokee Hunter Checking Station during the annual goat and deer hunting seasons. The position provided logistical support of both game and non-game population

surveys and the annual Save Our Shearwater (SOS) program. This position was terminated in March 2003. Expenditures: \$11,060

Game Mammal Surveys

WRF monies were used to pay for helicopter rental service to conduct the annual aerial goat census in Waimea Canyon and the Na Pali Coast. Helicopter transportation was also used to inspect several game range exclosures in highly remote areas. The aerial surveys enabled wildlife managers to assess goat population levels prior to the 2003 hunting season. Expenditures: \$7,000

Hunting Season Management

Monies from WRF were used to purchase game tag materials, the printing of game tags and instruction sheets, and the publication of legal notices and news release announcements declaring open hunting seasons on game tag species. The new Waimea Heights and Puu Opae Sugar Cane Lands Game Bird Hunting Area was opened, expanding the game bird hunting area available to the public by 5,500 acres. A special goat hunt was administered within the Na Pali Coast State Park that required the publication of legal notices, printing of applications and helicopter access for enforcement and management of the hunt. Expenditures: \$6,033

Game Habitat Improvement

A contractor was hired this year to complete a forty-acre vegetation clearing and disc-harrowing job in the Kekaha Game Management Area (GMA) using WRF monies. The treated habitat was planted with bahia grass. Expenditures: \$17,479

Game Operations and Maintenance

Funds were used to do a road repair work in the Puu Opae Area of the Kekaha GMA. Because of the rugged mountain terrain, helicopter service was used to aerially transport ready-mix cement to fill-in bad sections of the hunter access road. Expenditures: \$2,380

Motor Vehicle Repairs and Purchase

The aging fleet of motor vehicles used by DOFAW's Wildlife Section on Kauai required some repairs to keep them operational. Wildlife Revolving Funds contributed (\$1,568) to meet those costs. In addition, WRF monies were used for the partial purchase of one new pick up truck used by the Kauai Game Biologist, providing for the non-federal aid portion of its use, and the State's match for the federal funds used (\$6,568). Total Expenditures for motor vehicle repair and purchase: \$8,136

Non-Game Facility Construction

A fence contractor was hired to install a 1,200 feet long chain-linked fence on the front section of Kawaiiele Wildlife Sanctuary Phase I and II. WRF monies were used for the partial purchase of the \$11,957 fence contract. Expenditures: \$2,617

Commissions on Hunting License Sales

WRF monies were used to pay vendors their commission on the sale of 2002-2003 Hawaii Hunting Licenses. Expenditures: \$1,722

Total Wildlife Revolving Fund expenditures of Kauai: \$56,427

Future Program Plans:

1. Continued employment of a general laborer to assist on game development, maintenance and management projects.
2. Provide for the administrative costs, such as legal notices, printing and administration of game tags, announcements of hunting season changes, and additions of new hunting areas.
3. Continued rearing and release of game birds in Kekaha GMA if drought conditions require it.
4. Incremental development of a public archery/rifle target range at Hanahanapuni.
5. Purchase of a pickup truck (that portion not covered by PR Federal Aid) to replace a vehicle that is beyond economical repair used in the conduct of both game and non-game programs on Kauai.
6. Incremental development of a new game mammal fence and hunter access route along the western boundary of the Kekaha GMA.
7. Purchase of new game auto feeders to be used in the Kekaha GMA.

OAHU SEGMENT

The Objectives of the WRF program segment on Oahu were as follows:

1. To maintain and enhance habitat and facilities on Oahu Public Hunting Areas (PHA), (GMA), and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. To improve game bird and game mammal habitat and hunting opportunities on the Island of Oahu.

General Laborer Position

This is a half time general laborer position, and is typically used to conduct habitat management, vegetation control, wildlife surveys, and other duties associated with wildlife sanctuary management. This position was not filled because of hiring restrictions on temporary, unbudgeted positions. The position has been reclassified as a budgeted temporary position and put into the Budget for FY04. Expenditures: \$0

Game Bird Enhancement on Oahu.

WRF monies were used to pay for the capture and transport of Black and Gray Francolins on Molokai by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services Branch, and shipped via airfreight to Oahu for release in suitable habitat. The intent of the project is to increase the distribution and abundance of game birds on Oahu for the benefit of the bird-hunting public. 29 Black and 91 Gray Francolins were transported and released last year.

Expenditures: \$3,370.00

In addition to the Francolin Release Program, 100 male Ring-necked Pheasant were purchased and released to supplement wild populations during the 02-03 game bird hunting season at Kuaokala GMA.

Expenditures: \$2,200.00

Game Bird Habitat Enhancement on Oahu

WRF monies were used to purchase fencing materials for the construction of a new cattle corral at the Kuaokala GMA. The corral will enable more efficient removal and handling of cattle from the area by the ranch permittee. Volunteer labor will be used to construct the corral.

Expenditures: \$6,406.20

A rare plant survey was conducted in the Makua Keaau Public Hunting Area (PHA) to update the status and distribution of known plants and populations in the area. This information will be assimilated into a comprehensive plan for Ohikilolo Valley. The plan involves controlled grazing of cattle for game bird habitat management, watershed protection, erosion reduction, fire control, and native species protection and restoration. The recent set-aside of 575 acres in Ohikilolo from the Department's Land Division to DOFAW, and the inclusion of approximately 250 acres of private lands under cooperative management are expected to double the amount of available hunting area.

Expenditures: \$4,549.27

Vehicle Purchase

WRF monies were used for a portion of the total cost of a 2003 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad-Cab 4WD truck. As the total cost was covered using other funding sources, the new vehicle will be used to transport personnel and materials to and from all program project areas, including game management projects.

Expenditures: \$4,800.00

Oahu Hunting License Vendor Reimbursements

Expenditures: \$3,944.00

Total WRF Expenditures for Oahu: \$0 (Salary), \$25,269.47 (Operating)

Future Program Plans

1. Hire temporary personnel to perform tasks targeted towards the ongoing management of Oahu District Wildlife Management Areas.
2. Contract the USDA Wildlife Services Branch to hold and transport Gray and Black Francolins from Molokai to Oahu for release in public hunting areas. (\$3,500)
3. Purchase of game birds for release prior to hunting season. (\$2,500)
4. Development of water/feed units for game birds at Makua Keau. (\$5,000)
5. Purchase equipment and supplies needed for ongoing operations and maintenance of Oahu Wildlife Management Areas.

MAUI SEGMENT

Lease of Cooperative Game Management Area-Lanai

Objective: Provide 30,000 acres of land on Lanai for sport hunting and wildlife management. Accomplishment: The entire annual lease rental for the Lanai Cooperative GMA was paid via WRF monies. Expenditure: \$35,000.

Lease of Lands for Hunting Unit "C"-Maui

Objective: To maintain a lease of 1,000 acres of ranch lands lying between portions of the Kula Forest Reserve Hunting Unit "C" for sport hunting and wildlife management. Accomplishment: A portion of the lease rental for the Kaonoulou Ranch Cooperative GMA was paid with WRF monies, providing 1,000 acres for sport hunting and wildlife management on Maui. Expenditure: \$600.

Contract Services-Data/Lanai Hunts

Objective: With the shortage of clerical staff, coupled with high interest and participation in the Lanai Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts on Lanai, it became necessary to contract outside support to assure all lottery and non-lottery hunt applications were processed in a timely manner. Accomplishment: A total of 4,732 hunter applications were received for the 2 Lanai hunts, all applicant data was entered, and duplicate applications identified and deleted. Lottery drawings were conducted for muzzleloading and general rifle hunts for both the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts, with results compiled and disseminated in a timely manner. Expenditure: \$1,885.

Part time / Temporary General Laborer-Lanai

Objective: To assist the sole Lanai Forestry and Wildlife Technician in the weekly conduct of the nationally recognized Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts on Lanai. This position, utilized only on days of hunter check in and hunter check out, assures that the checking in process is smooth and timely, that correct stand-by hunters are accommodated, and that harvest data is collected. Accomplishment: A combined total of 2,631 hunters were processed in a timely manner through the 5 step check in process, avoiding anger and anxiety, stand-by hunters were accommodated, and harvest data collected as hunters checked out during the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts on Lanai. Expenditure: \$5,972.

Part time / Temporary general Laborer-Lanai

Objective: To assist the Lanai Forestry and Wildlife Technician with the upkeep and maintenance of 27 miles of water unit pipeline and 54 miles of access roads in the Cooperative GMA. Accomplishment: 10 miles of access roads and 27 miles of water line and water units were maintained and kept functional in the Lanai Cooperative GMA. Expenditure: \$7,606.

Temporary – Full Time Wildlife Assistant-Maui Research Corporation
of the University of Hawaii (RCUH)

Objective: To continue to maintain a temporary full time position originally funded via Natural Area Partnership Program's (NAPP) monies as part of the management scheme for the East Maui Watershed Partnership area to assist in the hunter access program, maintenance of the access road system, signage replacement, transect monitoring, gathering and collating hunter harvest data. Accomplishment: Half of this position was funded via WRF. Expenditure: \$5,025

Game Mammal Survey-Lanai

Objective: To conduct game mammal aerial surveys annually over the 30,000-acre Cooperative GMA on Lanai. The results of the survey is necessary to present to the Cooperator in order to set seasons and bag limits for the 2 game mammal hunts on Lanai. Accomplishments: 1,006 Axis Deer and 944 Mouflon Sheep were observed during a September 11, 2002 helicopter survey, and the results of the surveys presented to the Cooperator and used to set the FY03-04 seasons. Expenditure: \$5,544.

Management of the Lottery Hunts-Lanai

Objective: To prepare materials and hold a lottery for the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts on Lanai. Accomplishment: Application cards and instruction sheets were printed and distributed and lotteries conducted for the FY03 hunts. Expenditures: \$3,605.

Game Mammal Facilities O & M-Lanai

Objective: To get personnel to Lanai for the upkeep and maintenance of 27 miles of waterlines and game water units. Accomplishment: Personnel from Maui and Molokai were sent over to Lanai and maintained 27 miles of waterline and water units and assisted with check station operation during hunting seasons. Expenditure: \$8,285.

Game Operation and Maintenance

Objective: To fund unanticipated costs within the District including supplies and services to maintain hunter accesses and equipment necessary for the continued operation of game facilities. Accomplishment: 130 signs were put up to mark the no-hunting boundary within 1,820 feet of Keomuku, Polihua, and Kaumalapau Roads and the Garden of Gods safety zones. Expenditure: \$422.

Commissions on Hunting License Sales

Objective: WRF was used to pay the commission to vendors for the sales of the 2002-2003 Hawaii Hunting Licenses. Expenditure: \$2,442.

Total WRF expenditures for Maui District were: \$71,361

Future Program Plans

1. Fund land rental on Lanai- \$35,000 (100% WRF)
2. Fund land rental on Maui-\$2,600 (25% WRF)
3. Fund Lanai Check Station overtime for Forestry and Wildlife Technician V position-\$2,500 (100% WRF)

4. Fund General Laborer (GL) I position for Lanai Check Station work-\$10,000 (100% WRF)
5. Fund GL I position for Lanai for facility upkeep and maintenance-\$22,700 (100% WRF)
6. Fund game mammal facilities Development and Operations and Maintenance on Lanai-\$10,000 (100% WRF)
7. Fund game mammal surveys on Lanai-\$8,008 (100% WRF)
8. Fund Koolau Ungulate Monitoring Project-\$24,000 (25% WRF)
9. Fund repair and maintenance of Lanai vehicles-\$1,000 (50% WRF)
10. Fund management of lottery hunts on Lanai; document printing, data input and drawings-\$10,000 (100% WRF)
11. Fund signage for areas closed to hunting on Lanai-\$16,000 (100% WRF)
12. Fund temporary-full time Wildlife Assistant position-Maui (RCUH)-\$8,000 (100% WRF)

EAST HAWAII SEGMENT

General Laborer Positions:

The half time General Laborer position was frozen and remained unfilled during the year.
Expenditures: 0.00

Wildlife Habitat Management:

The Nene habitat at Keaau was renewed by clearing out non-native vegetation. 20 acres of wetlands were maintained in preparation for nesting season. Hand-tools and safety equipment were bought for staff and volunteers. Volunteers were comprised of Alu Like student workers and prison inmates employed at separate times. Herbicides were purchased and used in the removal of Christmas Berry thickets in Kapapala Hunting Areas. Expenditures: \$1,807

Wildlife Operations and Maintenance:

7,000 acres of State lands under special permit agreement were cleared for bird hunting in cooperation with Kapapala Ranch. Fertilizers and insecticides were used on food crop plantings. Predators were removed by trapping and the use of rodenticides. A vehicle was purchased for wildlife work in replacement of a model 13 years old with 174,000 miles logged. The WRF monies paid for one fourth the cost of the vehicle. A share of the wildlife programs fuel and oil charges were paid for with WRF monies.
Expenditures: \$9,917.

Commissions on Hunting License Sales:

WRF monies were used to pay commissions to vendors on the Island of Hawaii for sales of the 2002-2003 Hawaii hunting license. Expenditures: \$4,113

Total WRF expenditures including island wide administrative charges to East Hawaii were: \$15,837

Future Program Plans

1. Continue the current level of services such as predator control using new and highly effective fish flavored bait blocks, purchase of traps for urban pig relocations into hunting areas, weed control in the newly acquired Piihonua Bird Hunting Area, avian wildlife salvage and rehabilitation, hunter access enhancement at O'okala and Kau, mapping and posting old and new hunting areas, and other public services. Cost: \$15,000
2. Maintain existing cooperative hunting areas so that other landowners and managers may see advantage to allowing public hunting in their areas. Cost: \$10,000
3. Develop habitat in state lease areas for game birds and mammals to expand hunting opportunities on appropriate State lands. Development includes gorse removal, road improvements, and fencing. Cost: \$10,000
4. Staff will continue to attend Hunter Safety classes and assorted hunter focused interest group meetings to explain wildlife activities and promote wildlife stamp sales to support the WRF and attend hunter safety meetings. Cost: \$5,000

WEST HAWAII

Equipment Purchase

A portion of the cost to purchase an all terrain vehicle (ATV) was paid for out of the WRF. The ATV will be used for wildlife related projects. Expenditure: \$4,399.00

Facilities Construction.

A new water guzzler was constructed in the Puu Waawaa Mauka Cooperative GMA. A new 500 gallon water tank was purchased for a new water unit site in the same vicinity, which will be installed at a later date. Expenditures: \$1,000.00

Game Operations & Maintenance.

Crushed coral was made available for game birds at water unit sites in Mauna Kea and Pohakaloa Training Area with the help of volunteer groups. Expenditures: \$103.00

Hunting Season Management

Sheep tags were purchased for the Puu Waawaa game mammal hunting season. Expenditures: \$498.00

Temporary Hire of General Laborer I, Clerk Typist II

A full-time (non-civil service) General Laborer I position was filled in DOFAW's West Hawaii Wildlife Section using WRF monies. The position was used to renovate and construct new guzzlers in the public hunting areas, operate hunter checking stations, enter game harvest data, conduct wildlife habitat improvement projects, post hunting boundaries, assist in monitoring and capture of wildlife, predator control, and other duties as assigned.

DOFAW is responsible for maintaining the statewide database of hunting licenses which requires someone to manually enter all licenses sold to the public and retrieve data as requested. A clerk typist II was hired part-time at the Kamuela Office to assist with

management of the hunting license data system including data entry, data retrieval and to service the public for hunting license and game tag sales.

Expenditures for the two positions: \$24,979.00

Total WRF expenditures for West Hawaii: \$30,979

Future Program Plans

1. Install additional high density polyethylene waterlines and troughs in Puuanahulu GMA and Puu Waawaa Cooperative GMA.
2. Add additional water tanks to existing water units in Pohakaloa Training Area and Mauna Kea GMA to increase water storage capability.
3. Contract predator control in Mauna Kea, Puuanahulu and PuuWaawaa GMAs.
4. Continue experimental plantings within burned areas of Puuanahulu GMA to improve game habitat.
5. Install guzzlers in Puuanahulu GMA.
6. Purchase a Department of Accounting and General Services surplus utility truck or trailer to haul water to service game bird water units.

HONOLULU STAFF

Hunting License, Wildlife Conservation Stamp, and Game Bird Stamp Production, Program Sales, and Management:

A portion of the production costs for the FY04 Hawaii Hunting License, Wildlife Stamp, and Game Bird Stamp were paid from WRF monies. Expenditures included some of the printing and shipping costs of new licenses and stamps.

Expenditures: \$5,930

Notification of hunting season openings and changes:

The game bird season announcement, with some bag limit adjustments and new weekday hunting additions in some areas, was published as a legal notices. Expenditures: \$1,236

The Wildlife Revolving Fund expenditures and encumbrances for the Honolulu Office Staff was \$7,166.

Future Program Plans

1. Publish notification of game bird hunting season announcement. \$1,300
2. Provide a portion of the costs of producing the FY05 hunting license, Wildlife Conservation Stamp, and Game Bird Stamp. Estimated expenditures: \$6,700.